

Review of N.G. Wilson, A Descriptive Catalogue of the the Greek Manuscripts of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. (Cambridge, 2011)

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CONSERVING MANUSCRIPTS IN OXFORD



Conservator Robert Minte showing AMARC members a Persian manuscript, a 12th-century copy of the 'Book on the Constellations of the Fixed Stars' (Bodleian Library, MS. Huntington 212) during the winter meeting. See report by Hannah Ryley, p. 4.

Photo by AMARC member Lizzie Sandis.

Alfred Taylor radio log and press cuttings, 1922-23 (Add. MS 88996).
Memoirs of Afsa Horner, c 1950-2012 (Add. MS 88997).

Papers of Lee Harwood, 1955-2012 (Add. MS 88998).

Correspondence and papers relating to Universal Co-Masonry, 1905-1997 (Add. MS 88999).

St Cuthbert Gospel, c. 698-4th quarter of the 13th cent. (Add. MS 89000).

B.S. Johnson archive, 1933-2004 (Add. MS 89001).

Supplementary Edward Upward papers, 1924-2009 (Add. MS 89002).

Photographs of Kathleen Raine, c 1932 (Add. MS 89003).

Postcards from Thom Gunn, 1973-1975 (Add. MS 89004).

Isaac Rosenberg fragment, on the *verso* of a letter from Rosenberg to Edward Marsh, c. 1914 (Add. MS 89005).

Letter from Olwyn Hughes to D. Merwin, 1963 (Add. MS 89006).

Dante Gabriel Rossetti 'Jenny' MS, mid 19th cent. (Add. MS 89007).

Lowenstein collection of G. B. Shaw papers, 1878-1974 (Add. MS 89008).

Recent Music Accessions

Supplied by Nicolas Bell.

The Griesbach Family Archive. A small collection of papers relating to the family of musicians in the court orchestra of George III, including several concert programmes in the King's hand, written as request lists to be handed to the leader of the orchestra, and consisting almost entirely of music by Handel. Accepted by HM Government in lieu of inheritance tax and allocated to the British Library.

Sir Harrison Birtwistle: a substantial collection of music manuscripts and correspondence, primarily consisting of sketch material for major works of the 1960s-1980s as well as a number of unpublished works from his childhood and student years. (MS Mus. 1778).

Music manuscripts of George Lloyd (1913-98).

Music manuscripts of Gerard McBurney, presented by the composer (MS Mus. 1779).

Music manuscripts of James Stevens, bequeathed by the composer (MS Mus. 1770).

Music manuscripts of Isaiah Burnell of Bromsgrove, with letters from Edward Elgar (Music Deposit 2012/22).

The Melodists' Club archive (MS Mus. 1777).

Letters to the Czech oboist Jiri Tancibudek, from Bohuslav Martinu and others (Music Deposit 2012/28)

PARIS, BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

Following a major appeal, the BnF has acquired the celebrated book of Hours of Jeanne de France, a 15th-century illuminated manuscript classed as a *Trésor national*. The manuscript will be held in the Department of manuscripts, but was digitised in 2013 and is already available online via Gallica, the BnF's digital library, at <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8571085n/f39.item>.

BOOK REVIEW

N. G. Wilson, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Greek Manuscripts of*

Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

(Oxford: Corpus Christi College, & Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2011). Xii+36 pp. 48 plates. ISBN: 978 1 84384 287 3. £50.

Reviewed by **Hugh Houghton**, *Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing, University of Birmingham.*

It is hard to imagine a more magisterial catalogue than Nigel Wilson's volume on the thirty-six Greek manuscripts of Corpus Christi College Oxford. It appears alongside R.M. Thomson's matching description of the College's other medieval codices, and the series will be completed with Peter Pormann's work on the Hebrew manuscripts. Wilson's publications on Corpus manuscripts now span half a century and this book distils a lifetime's expertise into a work of the highest scholarship.

As noted in the two-page introduction, almost all of the Greek manuscripts were acquired around the time of the College's foundation. Twenty-three were purchased by the first President, John Claymond, from the estate of William Grocyn in 1521. The majority date from the 15th century: the oldest is a 9th-century copy of Aristotle's zoological works (MS 108) and there are theological manuscripts from the 10th to the 12th centuries, including two codices apiece of Basil (MSS 26, 27) and Pseudo-Dionysius (MSS 141, 163). The other principal authors represented are Chrysostom, Plato, Plotinus, Proclus, Ptolemy, Simplicius and Thucydides, along with biblical texts and

a two-volume copy of the Suda lexicon (MSS 76, 77).

The preservation of the nucleus of Grocyn's collection offers an insight into the history of scholarship and textual transmission. Grocyn studied in Florence, where he acquired some of his manuscripts, before returning to Oxford. Several of the copies are dated, and in many cases the hands have been identified. Of particular interest is the copyist John Serbopoulos from Constantinople who, according to the colophon, copied MSS 23, 24 and 106 'in the British island England, in a village named Reading'. The latter is written as 'Ραδίγκ (Rhadingk; 23), 'Ραδίγκ (Rhadingk; 24) and 'Ραδίγ (Rhading; 106), which may offer clues to contemporary pronunciation (Wilson notes a similar spelling in MS Trinity College, Cambridge R.9.22). Following their acquisition by Corpus Christi, two of Grocyn's manuscripts might have been used as the basis for the *editio princeps* of Proclus produced in Basel in 1533-4 (MSS 98, 99). This is certainly the case for MS 97, in which the typesetter's markings can be clearly seen. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, the four Chrysostom manuscripts (MSS 21-24) were loaned to Sir Henry Savile for his edition. An appendix provides the relevant entries from President Rainolds' Act Book, one of which specifies that 'it shall be lawful for the partie whose paines therein he employeth, conferring it with New College copie, to note ye diverse readings in the margent of ours': the margin of MS 22 duly contains

red annotations corresponding to New College MS 72.

Andrew Brown recently identified MS 30 as an unregistered 12th-century New Testament manuscript. The main content is Theophylact's commentary on the Gospels: paragraphs of exegesis alternate with the biblical text. Given that the list of *catena* manuscripts assembled by Reuss only covers a limited selection of libraries, there are no doubt similar commentary manuscripts eligible for inclusion in the Gregory–Aland *Kurzgefasste Liste* of Greek New Testament manuscripts. Unusually, the catalogue does not provide bibliographical details for this: readers may find it helpful to know that it is maintained online at <http://intf.uni-muenster.de/vmr/NTVMR/ListeHandschriften.php> and is also integrated into the New Testament Virtual Manuscript Room at <http://ntvmr.uni-muenster.de/>.

The catalogue entries occupy thirty pages and convey the findings of considerable research. Precise details are given about the extent of each work, along with references to a standard printed edition. Standard codicological information is supplemented by categorisation of the watermarks (for paper), ruling patterns (for parchment) and bindings. The extent and features of each hand are described; some scribes are identified by name and the corresponding reference to the *Repertorium der griechischen Kopisten*. Marginalia and colophons are mentioned, sometimes with a transcription. Information is provided on the later use of each manuscript, including the siglum allocated in

critical editions. The bibliography is not exhaustive, but Wilson aims 'to give credit where it is due to every scholar who has made a useful observation' (p. x).

The sixty-three black and white plates are spread over forty-eight pages: many are full size. Wilson makes a point of using traditional photography, for reasons explained in *Medium Aevum* 77 (2008) and *Gnomon* 81 (2009). Each hand is illustrated. The plates provide the opportunity to verify some of the transcriptions and a few alterations may be suggested: in the subscription to MS 24 (pl. 6), νήσω should be added before Ἀγγλία and πεντακοσιοστῷ in place of πεντηκοσιοστῷ; there is no sign of μοι in the invocation in MS 90 (pl. 30); Grocyn's first name is spelt *Guilielmi* in MS 104 as in the majority of manuscripts (it is not possible to confirm the form in MSS 100, 109 and 158, which all give 1501 as the date); in the marginal note in MS 115 (pl. 52), the deleted word is υπω, without accentuation, and the final word appears to be the nonsensical φωμᾶς. Typographical errors are otherwise extremely rare: *Alesssandria* is unduly sibilant in MS 19; items 2 and 3 in MS 26 should read *ieiunio*; *shown* is duplicated in the last line of MS 117; plate 27 is recto rather than verso; in MS 470 *lingaue* should be *linguae*, although the error may be original. The use of the lunate sigma throughout is presumably intended to reflect ancient authorial practice rather than the orthography of the manuscripts and their annotators.

There is a single index combining names, subjects and a list of manuscripts in other collections. Claymond and Grocyn are not mentioned: for them, users must consult the list of former shelf-marks and provenance. Despite the relatively small number of manuscripts, it would have been useful to subdivide the index into scribes, authors/contents, owners/users and other subjects, or to provide a conspectus of manuscripts tabulating their shelf-mark, contents, date, copyist and perhaps some of the codicological data. On the other hand, those who referred only to such a summary table would miss the gems contained in the individual entries, which, with cross-references to features shared between manuscripts and further bibliography, build up a narrative of the history of this collection.

This catalogue should find a place on the shelves of research libraries, not simply as a source of information and images, but also as a model of comprehensiveness and, combining details from different entries, an account of the production and later use of these books. Nigel Wilson is one of the foremost scholars in this field and the Corpus Christi Greek manuscripts are fortunate to have been the subject of his attention.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bibliographical details are as given by contributors, press releases or websites and the amount of information is variable.

L'abbaye cistercienne de Bégard des origines à 1476: histoire et

chartes, ed. C. Evans (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013) 467 pp., 2 b/w illustr., ISBN: 978-2-503-54750-3. €85.

The Berkeley Estate 1281-1417: its economy and development, by Bridget Wells-Furby (Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 2012). ISBN: 9780900197819. Enquiries to J. R. Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud GL6 7NR or visit www.bgas.org.uk. (To be reviewed in a forthcoming Newsletter).

La bibliothèque de l'abbaye cistercienne de Vauluisant. Histoire et inventaires, François Bougard et Pierre Petitmengin, avec la collaboration de Patricia Stirnemann (Documents, études et répertoires, Paris: CNRS Éditions, 2013). 200 pp., ISBN: 978-2-271-07560-4. €80.

The Book of Kells. An Illustrated Introduction to the Manuscript in Trinity College Dublin, Bernard Meehan (Thames & Hudson, 2012). 96 pp., 117 illustr. ISBN: 9780500277904. £9.95.

A Catalogue of the Armenian Manuscripts in the British Library, acquired since the year 1913, and of collections in other libraries in the United Kingdom, Vrej Nersessian (2 vols, London: BL, 2012). 1200 pp. ISBN: 978 0 7123 4905 5. £150.

Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the Museum Plantin-Moretus, Lieve Watteeuw & Catherine Reynolds (Leuven: Peeters Publishers & London: Walpole, 2013) 303 pp., illustr. ISBN: 978-